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"By having you promise that for six months you will not attempt anything like this, and that you will let me see you frequently within that time. The last I 'll not force upon you. The other I do. You owe me that much.'' She smiled. ''You make it very hard.

Why force me to go on for six months, when Oh, I'm so tired—so tired! And at the end of six months—what will you have gained? For I shall make no further

"By the end of six months you will have gained a different view point. I don't believe you can be blind to this man's indifference and cruelty six months

longer, ''
"I'm not blind to them now,''

"But you love him now, "I will love him then,"

"I will love him then."

"Not as you do now."

"Ah, you don't know how I love—a wild, unreasoning love that I can no more control than I can my heart beats!"

"And yet," firmly, "I believe six months will make a difference."

She shook her head.

"But you will give me the promise?"

She did not appropriate to the promise?"

She did not answer at once.

"Yes, I will give you the promise."

"And you will let me help you? Let me do what I can to make these months less hard?"

She nodded.

DURING the next few weeks he was With her almost every evening. She made no protest, she let him take her to dinner, to the theater, to concerts. At first she made some effort to respond, to show some interest in it-all. But gradually she sank into a quiet listlessness from which nothing seemed to arouse

Although no mention was now ever made of the man she loved, he was never out of her thoughts. They never went to a restaurant or theater that she did not look around with that tense searching gaze - and he knew for whom she was looking.

Once they were dining at a large hotel restaurant and a page came through calling "Wilmont — Mr. Wilmont!" White and trembling, she held to the edge of th table. He started up, fearing she would fall, and then the boy called again, "Wilmont — Mr. W. H. Wilmont!" With a quivering breath, she sank back in her chair. The initials were different. The

call was for some one else.

At the end of the second month his anxiety about her health was stronger than everything else. Something must be done. So fast was she breaking down now that in a few weeks she would not be able to leave her room.

He had slowly come to realize the futility and perhaps even the ernelty of the plan he had thought would avait. She could not forget. It took all the self-abnegation of which he was capable to admit that. And had it not been for her failing health, he would still have hoped that time would do for her what he so wished.

But now, urged by the need of some

But now, urged by the need of some immediate action, one evening just before he left, he said to her quietly:

"Katherine, what would you say if I should tell you that I 'm thinking of having a talk with Mr. Wilmont—a long talk? After all, there may be some mis understanding that can be cleared away, and when he knows how ill you are—"." And when he knows how ill you are

He turned away from the light that

leaped to her eyes, "You want me to?"

She caught her breath. "Oh, I have wanted it all along!"

· "Then, why did n't you ask me, if you thought it might help?" She shook her head, "I could n't ask that."

He covered her hand with that warm

protecting clasp that she had come to know and feel dumbly grateful for.

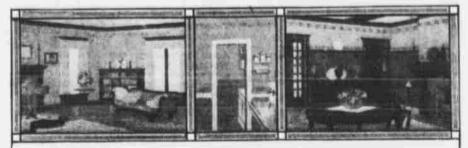
"Well, you don't have to ask it, dear,"

"And when——" It was the first eager, hopeful note he had heard in her voice for months.

"At once. Tomorrow if possible."

"And what ——" She hesitated.

"What will I say? Don't ask me that,
Katherine. I don't know. I will have
to think it out tonight. But can't you
trust me to say only what you would
want? Nothing that would humiliate you
in any way."



"Stay Beautiful" Walls

Here is a new plan—beautiful walls that cost little to keep fresh. Decorate the ceiling and upper walls (beyond the reach of solling finger marks) in Alabastine, the famous water-color wall tint.

But paint the lower walls (also kitchen and bathroom) with Alabasco, the washable flat wall paint.

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For Office Buildings Alabasco is ideal for office buildings, apartments, schools, halls, public build-ingsetc. By using Alabasco, which can be washed, on lower parts of walls—and Alabastine on upper parts of walls and ceilings—you get a job that is as satis-factory as all paint at a fraction of the cost.

If you cannot get Alabastine and Alabasco, for goodness sake (wall goodness) don't take a substitute. Write and we will tell you where you can get them.

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